



## Runyan Leads Adler in NJ's 3rd Congressional District, according to Stockton Polling Institute

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Galloway, NJ – The Stockton Polling Institute today released a poll of the closely watched 3rd Congressional District showing Republican incumbent Jon Runyan leading Democratic challenger Shelley Adler by a margin of 49 percent to 39 percent among likely voters.

The Stockton Polling Institute is part of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. The poll was conducted with 614 likely voters from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 2nd. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. The survey has a margin of error of +/-4.0 percent.

New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District includes parts of Burlington and Ocean counties. It is on the watch lists of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

"These polling results are from the first independent poll made public in this district," said Daniel J. Douglas, Director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

"With 12 percent of voters undecided, candidate Adler still has an opportunity to close the lead on Runyan, though Runyan is clearly in a better position," explained Douglas.

Of all those surveyed, 51 percent have a very or somewhat favorable opinion of Runyan, while 26 percent have a somewhat or very unfavorable opinion, with 21 percent unsure or unfamiliar with him.

For Adler, 39 percent of those surveyed have a very or somewhat favorable opinion of her, while 26 percent have a somewhat or very unfavorable opinion. One-third are unfamiliar with the candidate or unsure of their opinion about her.

As with other members of Congress, voters' views of Runyan's job performance is different than voters' views of Congress overall, with 43 percent rating Runyan's job performance as excellent or good and 37 percent rating his performance as fair or poor. Only 10 percent of the voters approve of the job performance of Congress, while 87 percent disapprove.

In the race for the United States Senate seat, incumbent Democratic Senator Robert Menendez leads Republican challenger Joseph Kyrillos by a 46 to 38 percent margin in the 3rd Congressional District.

In the presidential race, incumbent Democratic President Barack Obama leads Republican challenger Mitt Romney by 49 to 41 percent in this southern New Jersey congressional district. The poll was concluded before the first presidential debate was held.

Although he is not on this year's ballot, 50 percent of likely voters rate New Jersey Governor Chris Christie's job performance as excellent or good, while 48 percent rate his performance fair or poor. While his job performance numbers are nearly split, his favorability rankings are more positive with 57 percent viewing him very or somewhat favorably, while 40 percent view him somewhat or very unfavorably.

## **Methodology**

Interviews are conducted at the Stockton Polling Institute by live interviewers calling from the Stockton College campus. The poll was conducted with 614 likely voters from September 28<sup>th</sup> to October 2nd. Interviewers called both land lines and cell phones. All prospective respondent households in the source telephone list have the same chance of joining the sample because of the random digital dialing system (RDD). Data were weighted based on United States Census demographic data. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percent.

## **About the Hughes Center**

**The William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy** ([www.stockton.edu/hughescenter](http://www.stockton.edu/hughescenter)) at The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey serves as a catalyst for research, analysis and innovative policy solutions on the economic, social and cultural issues facing New Jersey. The Center is named for Ambassador William J. Hughes, whose distinguished career includes service in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ambassador to Panama and as a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Stockton College.

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